



FACT SHEET

Illegal dumps

A drive through Kentucky reveals a state with diverse scenic beauty -- hills and hollows in Eastern Kentucky, rolling fields and well-kept horse farms in Central Kentucky, and lakes and flatlands in Western Kentucky.

Unfortunately there's a good chance that you may also see an illegal dumpsite. These blights on the Bluegrass State are ugly, dangerous and expensive to clean up. Dumps -- also called open dumps -- are dangerous both to the environment and human health. They are breeding grounds for rats, flies, mosquitoes and other disease-carrying creatures. When burned, dumps can poison the air with toxic fumes from tires, plastics and other household waste.



It costs a lot of money to clean up a dump. From 1993 to 2003, Kentucky counties spent more than \$51.8 million to clean up more than 21,000 illegal dumps. Dumps are expensive in another way. They send the wrong message to industry prospects that are scouting the state for a location to expand or establish a new business.

The Division of Waste Management has joined with the counties in a concerted effort to stop illegal dumping. Field inspectors and special investigators locate dumps and gather evidence using stakeouts and surveillance equipment. An offender will be issued a notice of violation (NOV) and given the option of cleaning up the site within two weeks and signing up for a collection service or appearing before an administrative hearing officer in Frankfort. The hearing officer will determine the penalty, which could be up to \$5,000 per day.

In addition to the effort on the state level, counties continue to have the responsibility of cleaning up illegal dumps, preventing their recurrence and issuing citations.

What you can do

- ✓ Subscribe to a collection service and encourage others to sign up also.
- ✓ Contact your county solid waste coordinator (see list online at <http://www.waste.ky.gov/programs/rcia/County+Solid+Waste+Coordinators.htm>) or judge-executive if you witness open dumping or know the location of a dump. Provide detailed information on the time and date of the incident, the address or locale of the dump, vehicle description and type of materials dumped.
- ✓ **Be safe** -- don't confront a suspected lawbreaker or take any action that would place you in harm's way.

NOTE: There is a toll-free number (888 NO-DUMPS) available to report illegal dumping activities.

Art courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Kentucky Division of Waste Management

Governor Ernie Fletcher Secretary LaJuana S. Wilcher

14 Reilly Road, Frankfort, KY 40601 Phone: (502) 564-6716 Fax: (502) 564-4049

Telecommunications device for the deaf/hard-of-hearing: 502-564-0172

E-mail: waste@ky.gov Web site: <http://www.waste.ky.gov/>

The Division of Waste Management does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, ancestry, age, disability or veteran status. The division provides, on request, reasonable accommodations necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternate format, contact the division.

March 2005

